

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5612
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ZEN AMCONSUL AUCKLAND BY POUCH

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SPOP, NZ
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION STATISTICS FOR
- APRIL REFLECT NEW ZEALAND'S CONTINUING
- RECESSION

REF: WELLINGTON 01238 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PROPELLED BY A SO-FAR UNRELENTING
ECONOMIC RECESSION AND SUSTAINED PUBLIC PESSIMISM FOR
THE NATION'S ECONOMIC FUTURE, NEW ZEALAND'S RATES OF
UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION REACHED NEW POST-DEPRESSION
PEAKS IN APRIL.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES AT THE END OF APRIL ARE:

- REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED: 21,502
- SPECIAL WORK SCHEMES: 13,584

THE COMBINED TOTAL OF 35,086 UNEMPLOYED REPRESENTS AN
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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 2.7 PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED
1.3 MILLION NEW ZEALAND WORKFORCE. (AS PRIME MINISTER
MULDOON IS NEVER AT A LOSS TO POINT OUT IN THIS ELECTION
YEAR, NEW ZEALAND'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STILL COMPARES
VERY FAVORABLY WITH MOST OECD COUNTRIES. HIS CRITICS,
ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH EQUAL REGULARITY PROTEST THAT
THE RATES AND ABSOLUTE TOTALS ARE NONETHELESS AT

POST-DEPRESSION HIGHS.) END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LOU: BEGIN FYI: REFTEL DISCUSSES THE INADEQUACY OF NEW ZEALAND'S CURRENT METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING ITS UNEMPLOYMENT; I.E., IT DOES NOT PRESENT AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE PROBLEM. WHILE STILL IN OPPOSITION IN 1975, NOW LABOR MINISTER GORDON PROMISED THAT A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD INSTITUTE STATISTICAL COLLECTION REFORMS, INCLUDING REGULAR HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS, TO OBTAIN A TRUER READING OF VACANCIES AND JOBLESSNESS. IN DECEMBER 1976, A DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARKET SURVEYS OF UNEMPLOYMENT WAS BEGUN BY A SPECIAL TASK GROUP. THE REPORT HAS SINCE BEEN FINISHED AND REPORTEDLY DOES IDENTIFY THE PRESENT STATISTICAL SYSTEM AS ONE WHICH UNDER-ESTIMATES THE TRUE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES. THE MINISTER OF LABOR ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, THAT AN UPDATED, MORE ACCURATE SURVEY TECHNIQUE COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL "NEXT YEAR." DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SOURCES CLAIM THE TRUE TOTALS ARE CLOSER TO 60,000 UNEMPLOYED, WITH A COMMENSURATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 4.6 PERCENT. END FYI. END LOU.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT THE SAME TIME, THE PATTERN OF NET EMIGRATION FROM NEW ZEALAND CONTINUES UNABATED (SEE REFTEL). FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1978, 22,303 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE NEW ZEALANDERS EMIGRATED THAN FOREIGNERS ARRIVED FROM OVERSEAS FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. BY FAR THE TWO LARGEST OCCUPATIONAL GROUPINGS OF THESE EMIGRANTS WERE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WITH A NET OUTFLOW OF 2638, AND CRAFTSMEN AND PRODUCTION WORKERS WITH 6034 NET OUTFLOW. HEALY

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